GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2747
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
CONDITION OF FARMERS
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of farmers of the country has worsened due to huge difference of prices between industrial and agriculture products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any policy to check the price rise of agricultural equipments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for improving the condition of farmers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): The wholesale price index (1993-94=100) of agricultural products has moved much faster as compared to the manufactured products in recent years. The agriculture price index as percent of the index of manufactured products increased from 103.3 in 1994-95 to 118.4 in 2002-03 (April − December, 2000), which indicates that the conditions of farmers has not worsened.

(c)&(d): There is no statutory control on prices of agricultural equipment and these are regulated by the market forces. The assistance in the form of subsidy is available to the farmers under various schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation viz. Macro-management of agriculture, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (TMOP)etc. for the purchase of various agricultural equipments.

(e): For improving the condition of farmers in the country, the Government has taken several steps such as introduction of the Macro Management Scheme, preparation of common guidelines for Watershed Development Programmes, creation of a Watershed Development Fund, launching of a Technology Mission for the Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, introduction of a Scheme for Seed Crop Insurance, establishment of Seed Bank, enactment of Plant Varieties Act, measures for increasing the availability of farm credit, introduction of a subsidy linked credit scheme for construction/modernization and expansion of cold storage and storages for horticulture produce, expansion of the corpus of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, launching of a Market Information Network and promotion of value addition in agriculture through excise exemption and other interventions.